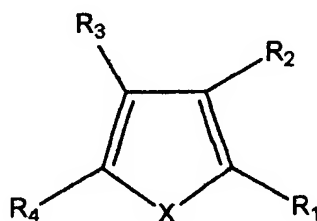


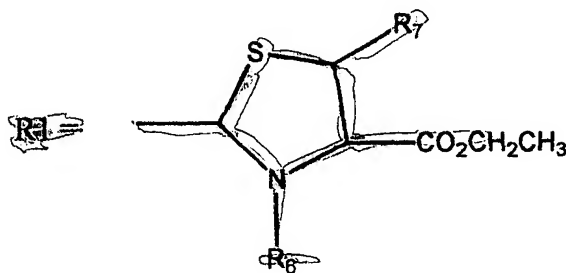
**Claims** (deletions in red and additions in blue ink):

19 (currently amended). A method for treating sickle cell disease in a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of administering to said patient a compound of the formula:



where

R<sub>1</sub> is CHO or ~~an aldehyde protecting a thiazolidine group comprised of the~~  
following formula:

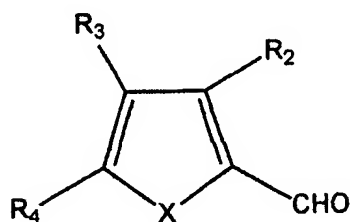


Thiazolidine-4-carboxylic ethyl ester

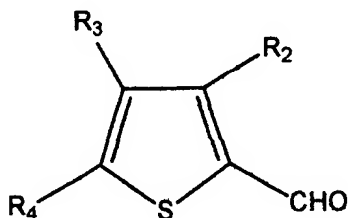
R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of H, OH, alkyl, halogen and hydroxy-alkyl; R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> = H;  
X = O or S;

and wherein said compound is administered in sufficient amount to said patient to ameliorate sickle cell disease.

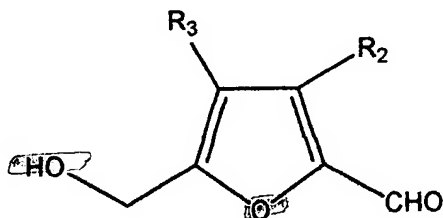
20 (original). The method of claim 19, wherein R1 is CHO; R2 and R3 = H; R4 is H, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; and X =O and the general formula of the compound is:



21 (original). The method of claim 20, wherein R1 is CHO; R2 and R3 = H; R4 is H, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; and X =S and the general formula of the compound is:

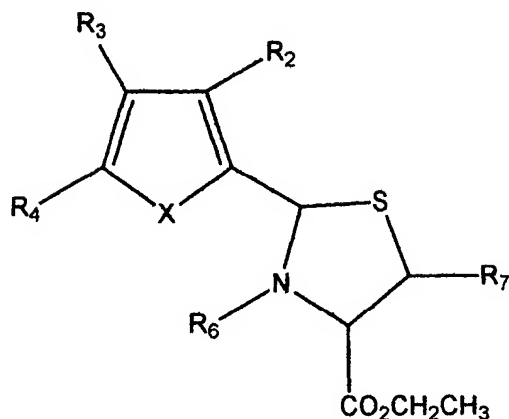


22 (currently amended). The method of claim 20, wherein said compound is of the formula:



where  
R1 is CHO; R2 and R3 =H; R4 = -CH<sub>2</sub>OH (hydroxy-methyl moiety);  
and X = O.

23 (currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is of the formula

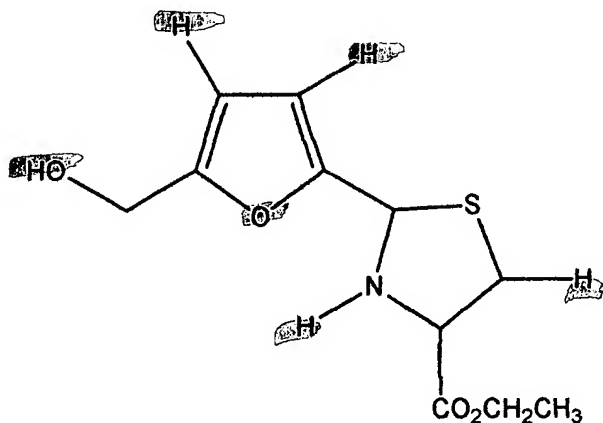


where

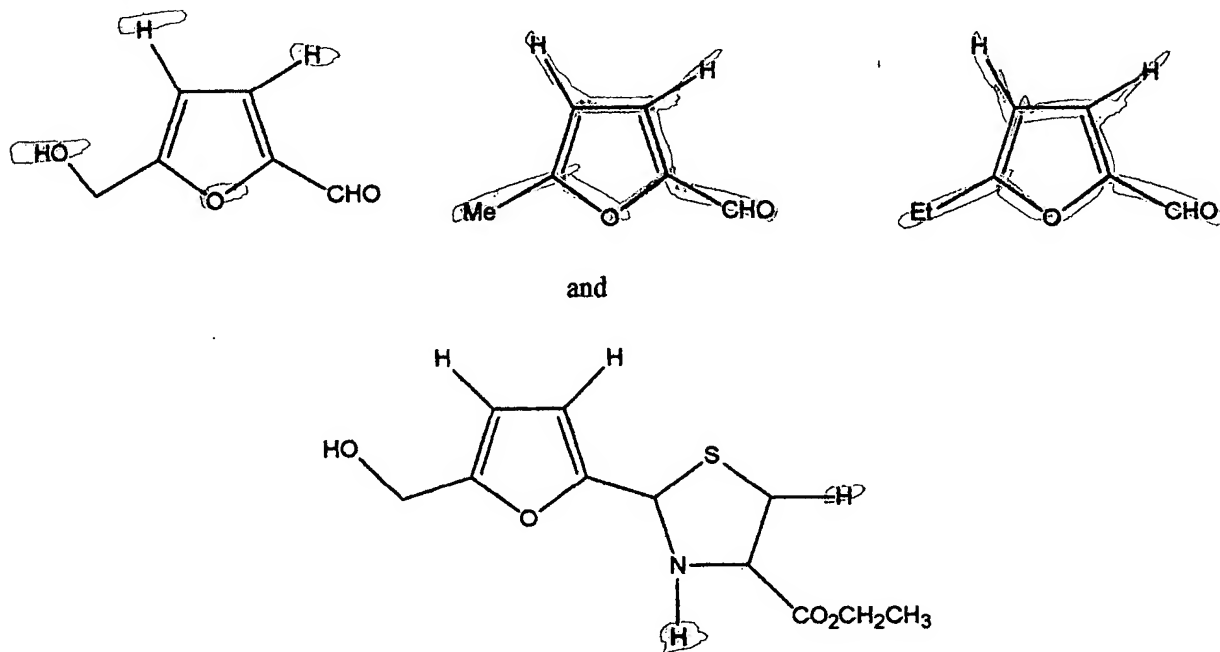
~~R1 is a heterocyclic thiazolidine ring is a thiazolidine 4-carboxylic ethyl ester~~

R2, R3 = H; R4 is H, alkyl or hydroxy-alkyl; ~~R6 and R7 = H;~~ and X = O

24 (currently amended). The method of claim 23, wherein ~~(R1 is a thiazolidine ring, R2 and R3 = H, R4 is hydroxymethyl, and R6 and R7 = H)~~ said compound is of the formula:



25 (currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula:



26(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 5-hydroxymethyl-2-furaldehyde.

27(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 2-(5-hydroxymethyl-furan-2-yl)-thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

28(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 5-methyl-furaldehyde.

29(original). The method of claim 19, wherein said compound is 5-ethyl-furaldehyde.